



GENERAL ASSEMBLY

STATE OF ILLINOIS

June 15, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: WT Docket 11-65

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

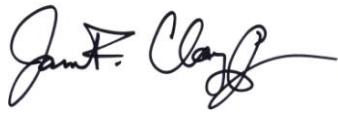
As members of the Illinois General Assembly's Senate Energy Committee representing constituents in rural areas and downstate cities, we urge you to approve the proposed merger of AT&T and T-Mobile.

This merger is vital for economic opportunity in many areas of Illinois as mobile broadband access brings more jobs, better access to education and distance learning, improved health care access through telemedicine and increased opportunities for civic engagement. Our constituents want and need access to 4G networks to move our economy forward. This merger is a smart approach to help achieve digital equality for over 97 percent of the population and will help accomplish the President's goal of providing high-speed wireless access for all Americans.

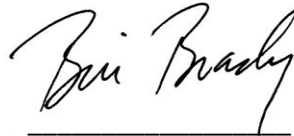
This proposed merger is enjoying tremendous support in Illinois. Our state's leading organized labor and business organizations are strongly supporting this transaction as it will invigorate the economy and spur job creation. As our Illinois Senate Energy Committee adopts state policy in telecommunications, we respect the economic power for jobs that mobile broadband access will bring to our state and throughout the nation.

This is a landmark opportunity for the future of rural Illinois. We respectfully ask that you support this merger to bring 4G LTE to rural areas of downstate Illinois for the economic, educational, health care and public safety benefits it will generate for our constituents.

Sincerely,



Sen. James Clayborne
(D – Belleville)



Sen. Bill Brady
(R – Bloomington)



Sen. Gary Forby
(D – Benton)



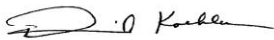
Sen. John O. Jones
(R – Mount Vernon)



Sen. Mike Jacobs
(D – East Moline)



Sen. Darin LaHood
(R – Peoria)



Sen. David Koehler
(D – Peoria)



Sen. Sue Rezin
(R – Morris)



Sen. Dale Righter
(R – Mattoon)

cc:

Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn